



## RTCA in Washington

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Washington offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Washington will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Bothell Walking Guide** – The project goal is to provide a walking guide and map that identifies walking routes for connecting key city resources and destinations, and also promotes the health benefits of walking. Establishment of a coalition that advocates for walkability within the city. (Location: Bothell, Washington)
- **Cathlamet Waterfront Park**– The project goal is to create a three acre park with trails and non-motorized river access. (Location: Cathlamet, Washington)
- **Cedar River Corridor Plan** – The project goal is to improved public safety and access for river recreation, in conjunction with river management for salmon recovery and flood-risk reduction. (Location: Cedar River Basin, Washington)
- **Central Puget Sound Regional Open Space** – The Project Goal is to develop region-wide strategies to conserve and enhance open space systems in the four-county region. The partners will work to foster more collaboration among organizations that cross ecological, economic, recreational, and social justice boundaries. (Location: King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap Counties, Washington)
- **Colfax Greenway**– The project goal is to provide a 1,300 feet of linear trail and trailhead that will access the abandoned rail corridor within the town of Colfax, Washington. (Location: Colfax, Washington)
- **Concrete Trails System** – The project goal is to integrate a high-quality trail system that serves and engages eastern Skagit County residents and visitors, creating a healthier and more prosperous community by connecting people of all ages and abilities to local and regional destinations. (Location: Concrete, Washington)
- **Delridge Wetland Restoration**– The Project Goal is to provide a half acre neighborhood park that is a link in the stewardship of Longfellow Creek and the Duwamish River, restore wetlands, create an urban garden and outdoor classroom for residents and students at the K-5 STEM school. (Location: Seattle, Washington)



Group of women with strollers preparing for a walk along a trail in Bothell. Photo: City of Bothell

- **Electric City Shoreline Trail** – The project goal is to provide a 3.2 mile trail from Electric City, generally following the shoreline to Grand Coulee, and connecting residents and visitors to the river and North Dam Park for a variety of outdoor recreation. (Location: Electric City to Grand Coulee, Washington)
- **Nisqually River Recreation Access and Management** - The project goal is to create a plan to improve recreation access and management of a 42 mile section of the Nisqually River. This section has limited opportunities for the public to use the river and project partners seek to promote safe and appropriate recreation access. (Location: La Grande Dam to the Nisqually Delta, Washington)
- **Palouse River & Coulee City Rail Corridor Forum** – The project goal is to create 37 miles of greenway that expands the Palouse region's existing rail-trail network connecting rural farm and college communities. (Location: Pullman, Colfax and Albion, Washington)
- **Sky to Sound Water Trail**– The project goal is to develop a 84 mile non-motorized trail along a network of whitewater and flatwater water trails reaching from the Wild Sky Wilderness to Puget Sound. (Location: Snohomish and King Counties, Washington)
- **South Sound Prairies Partnership** – The project goal is to establish a communications group and supporting plan with a focus on educating and engaging the public in understanding and supporting the South Puget Sound prairies. (Location: Thurston and Pierce Counties, Washington)

## Recent Success Story

**Kitsap National Water Trails: A Call to the Natural Side of Puget Sound** – In March 2015, the National Park Service received VisitKitsap's Vision Award for Regional Tourism Partner, acknowledging the agencies support to several trail planning efforts. Most recently, the National Park Service assisted Kitsap County with formation of a water trail Alliance and development of a management plan for Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails. Stretching along 371 miles of shoreline, the water trails highlight diverse water activities such as like paddling, sailing, and stand-up paddle boarding just to name a few. In June 2015, the Alliance celebrated being awarded a National Water Trail designation at a two-day Water Trails Festival. The event included an award ceremony attended by local dignitaries, trail partners, county officials, VisitKitsap, National Park Service and the Suquamish Tribe. Media exposure has included a feature article in the May 2015 edition of the Alaska-Horizon Airlines "Beyond" inflight magazine, and widespread press in local and regional publications.

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Washington contact:

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